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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Western Washington—Rain.
Eastern Washington—Rain or Snow

THE HUMOROUS PAPER.

Time was when the newspaper whose columns were filled with humorous articles were in great demand. Peck's Sun of Milwaukee was a popular favorite. Bill Nye's Boomerang, published at Laramie, was at one time the most popular paper in the United States. The Texas Siftings was another paper that met popular favor. But all of these publications have long since passed out of existence. Not because humorous papers are not appreciated, but because all the humorists have gone to that undiscovered country, with the single exception of the editor of the Astoria Budget.

In the first original editorial that has appeared in that publication for nearly a year, the editor and chief was groomed and after undergoing a snivel service examination, had the audacity to write an editorial with a pencil instead of the shears and paste pot so much in vogue in that office. Attention is called to an editorial in last Friday's edition, wherein the only exponent of democracy in Clatsop county, claimed the credit for the defeat of the Tuttle charter bill, and in a suave and immodest manner, not assimilated in any way with egotism, publicly announced, in an original editorial, "that the Budget had always been right on the charter amendment."

The editorial in question was shown to a number of democratic politicians who watch the trend of events, and they were surprised and amazed at the audacity of the official organ of the democratic party. He stated that he had read the Budget for years, and had never known or heard of its ever expressing an opinion on any subject for fear that it might lose a subscriber.

It is currently reported that as soon as Tone Smith sufficiently recovers from his victory in Salem that he will offer a standing reward of \$1000 for a copy of the Astoria Budget in which an original editorial has ever been published in which the Budget took a decided stand on any political subject. In this particular instance mentioned, the Budget is like a sheep's tail—always behind. It never chirped during the entire session of the legislature for or against the Tuttle charter bill or any other subject. A newspaper of limited circulation cannot afford to take any chances of losing a subscriber, and if it were to declare itself, such an accident might possibly happen.

The editorial published Friday in which the Budget claimed the credit of defeating the Tuttle charter bill and in which it announced that it has always been right on every subject of local importance, was regarded as a humorous joke, and many people who read it looked to see if it had not been credited to Bill Nye, but it wasn't. It was actually written in the office of the official organ of the untutored democracy of Clatsop county. Coming out as it did after the charter bill had been defeated it had a great influence in moulding legislation during the closing hours of the legislature. Being the first opinion ever expressed by that journal, many of the residents of Astoria have cut it out and will have it framed.

RAISING REVENUES.

Raising revenues for the support of the city government has gone to the extent, that the common council is compelled to license the most pernicious forms of vice in order to raise the necessary funds to maintain a large police force and provide soft jobs for some of the faithful who have assisted in carrying city elections in the interests of the democratic party. It has

also been necessary in order to raise the salaries of the democratic pets who are holding office in the city by virtue of the assistance of the republicans who are republicans for personal and private gain. That is the dominating influence of the democratic ring has produced a small revenue for them, sufficient to induce them to forsake party principle for private gain.

That a large majority of the people of Astoria are conscientiously opposed to raising revenues by these methods admits of no doubt. Yet they excuse it on the grounds that if it is not done, taxes will be higher and they will be compelled to contribute and make up for the loss that will be sustained if gambling and kindred vices were closed down.

In nearly every city in the state where these practices have been in vogue and where revenues have been derived, public sentiment has changed and they have been entirely eliminated. The city government goes on just the same; other means have been adopted for raising revenues; there are just as many improvements made and the city or town is just as prosperous. There is a noticeable change in the social atmosphere of the community and in every city where the innovation has been made it has proven both successful and gratifying. It removes temptation from the rising generation is beneficial to society, to good morals and there is more money in circulation.

Of course public opinion has to be moulded up to the benefits of making sweeping changes, especially in a community where everything has been wide open for years; where vice and official corruption go hand in hand; where politics is controlled by an element that ought to be disfranchised or denied the right of suffrage for constant violations of the law, but who have the controlling influence in all municipal elections, aided and abetted by police influence and politicians who never enforce the laws and ordinances which they are sworn to enforce. Their oath of office is of secondary consideration, and they are pledged to protect offenders in order to insure their election to office.

The time will come in Astoria when there will be a change in public sentiment. When ways and means can be devised for raising the necessary revenues for the support and maintenance of the city government without a system of license for vice and crime. There ought to be other ways of raising revenues than from the sources now in vogue in Astoria. This city is one of the very few on this coast that has the reputation of being a wide open town. This reputation is an inducement for the idle and vicious to come here and locate where they will be protected by a democratic police commission and a democratic police force, but it is not an inducement for the intelligent people of the east to come to Astoria and locate. It drives capital and intending investors away. No man is coming to Astoria to raise a family where such conditions exist. As a matter of fact many of the prominent citizens of Astoria have moved away and taken their families with them, on account of the city being under the control of the immoral element. Astoria has the reputation of being a wide open town, and it also has the reputation of being an undesirable place to raise children in.

Hundreds of eastern people have come to Astoria during the past year looking for a place to locate. Nine out of ten of them inquire first about the school facilities; second, about the churches, and invariably as to the moral conditions as being a proper place to raise and educate children. Hundreds of letters have been received asking the same information. When the actual facts are known to these intending investors and settlers they never come to Astoria. They have been accustomed to live in communities where vice and crime are not the dominating influence of city life. These are facts and are well known to every member of the chamber of commerce and to many of the prominent business men. As long as this condition of affairs exists Astoria will never receive any accessions to its population. It must either be a fit habitation for the refined and progressive or the immoral and vicious. It cannot combine the two.

Pushing the Work.

Great credit belongs to the contractor and workmen on the big and difficult work in remodeling the building and store of S. Danziger & Co., 488 and 490 Commercial St. The cold weather has not been favorable to rapid work, and besides the crowds that are attending the big bargain sale interfere more or less with fast work at times. There never was such an opportunity to save money, as this big sale offers 1-3 to 1-2 off on thousands of dollars' worth of choicest clothing, hats, shoes and furnishings. Seems to have started all the coast to this great sale. Danziger & Co.'s name for fine goods and square dealing is known near and far. People have visited Astoria since the big sale began expressly to attend the big sale, from almost every direction within 50 miles, for such chances to buy the best at a real bargain sale, brought them to Astoria, and all lines of business get more or less benefit from the visitors.

PROHIBIT GAMBLING

Privilege of Conducting Gambling Must Stop.

NO MORE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

Fines Cannot Be Collected Once a Month With the Understanding That Gamblers Shall Be Permitted to Carry on Games.

House bill No. 299, introduced by Representative Gray, has passed both houses of the legislature and will become a law in 90 days. It prohibits any officer from collecting fines or bail money, the same as has been carried on in Astoria, and makes the officer guilty of a misdemeanor. The law must be enforced and will put a stop to gambling. The bill is as follows: For an act to prohibit granting authority or privilege to conduct or carry on gambling.

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

Section 1. Every state, county, city, or town officer or other person, who shall ask for, receive or collect, in money or other valuable consideration, either for his own use or the public use, for and with the understanding that he will aid, exempt, or otherwise assist, any person from arrest or conviction for a violation of section 1944 and 1955 of Bellinger and Cotton's annotated codes and statutes of Oregon, or either of said sections, or who shall issue, deliver, or cause to be given or delivered, to any person or persons, any license, permit or other privilege, giving or pretending to give any authority or right to any person or persons, to carry on, conduct, open, or cause to be opened any game or games which are forbidden by said sections 1944 and 1955 of Bellinger and Cotton's annotated codes and statutes of Oregon, or either of said sections, and such officer or officers who shall vote for the passage of any ordinance or by-law giving, granting, or pretending to give or grant to any person or persons, any authority or privilege to open, carry on, or conduct any game or games prohibited by said sections 1944 and 1955 of Bellinger and Cotton's annotated codes and statutes of Oregon, or either of said sections, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine or not more than \$500, and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than six months.

Saddle for Governor.

Phoenix, Feb. 18.—The Arizona rangers have presented to Governor Brodie the finest saddle they could buy. The governor, who leaves for the east in a day or so, will present the saddle to President Roosevelt with the compliments of the rangers, who are mostly former rough riders.

CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT.

Reopened Under New Management. John Blasich has leased the California Restaurant and Oyster House and is now prepared to serve the public. The best oysters and meals in the city. Family trade supplied. Good cooks, polite waiters and prompt service.

Elks, Notice.

Astoria Lodge, B. P. O. Elks will give a ladies social on the evening of Tuesday, February 21, for the Elks and families and lady friends. The ladies' committee has arranged an elaborate program for the evening's entertainment and every member is requested to come.

Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Monarch Range Poem Contest. We beg to announce that all the poems on Monarch Range have been submitted to three teachers—Miss Badollet, Miss Sinnott and Miss Utzinger. Prizes will be awarded as soon as we hear from the judges. Poems were submitted to judges without names attached.

CHAS. HEILBORN & SON.

Sickening Shivering Fit of Ague and Malaria, can be relieved and cured with Electric Bitters. This is a pure, tonic medicine; of especial benefit in malaria, for it exerts a true curative influence on the disease, driving it entirely out of the system. It is much to be preferred to Quinine, having none of this drug's bad after-effects. S. Munday of Henrietta, Tex., writes: "My brother was very low with malarial fever and jaundice, till he took Electric Bitters, which saved his life. At Chas. Rogers' drug store; price 50c, guaranteed."

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These suits are worth from \$13.50 to \$20.00 per suit, consequently in buying one you win from \$4.50 to \$11.00 on each suit.

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Novelty and Comedy Duo, introducing singing, high class Whistling Solos and bird imitations

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Admission 10 cents to any seat.

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